

REMARKS

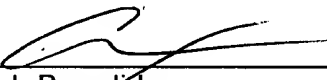
The present Amendment cancels claims 23-26 and leaves claims 17-22 and 27-40 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 17-22 and 27-40.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 17-40 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 17-40 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.28166CX2).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 684-1120